

## **Evolution of Truck Companies in the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department**

Truck company tasks are required on every fire scene, whether an actual truck company is on the scene or not. These tasks include but are not limited to ventilation, forcible entry, and laddering. Before truck companies existed in Fairfax County, truck tasks and duties were delegated to engine personnel when necessary.

As we delve into the 1890s, before any organized fire department existed in Fairfax County, the Town of Providence (later renamed the City of Fairfax) took the first steps towards fire protection. This crucial period set the stage for the evolution of firefighting within the county. The town organized a fire brigade, a significant milestone in the history of firefighting, and purchased fire buckets and ladders, laying the foundation for future developments.

The first two Fire Departments to organize in Fairfax County were the Vienna VFD in 1903 and the Herndon VFD in 1917. Before obtaining any hand-drawn or motorized fire apparatus, each department started by purchasing ladders, buckets, and hand tools.

From 1949 onwards, Fairfax County's fire department demonstrated remarkable adaptability and progress as it introduced a variety of Truck Companies. These included City Service Trucks, Quad, Quint, midship-mount aerial ladders, rear-mount aerial ladders, tiller trucks, a tower, and tower ladders (midship and rear-mount). This diversity reflects the department's unwavering commitment to evolving firefighting and rescue operations. As the county grew and opened new stations, this document will explain truck purchases and relocations.

The following is a chronological order of truck company assignments from initial coverage to disbanding or transferring companies to fit the department's needs.

It should be noted that in 1998, the COG changed the numbering system used. Fairfax County went from two-digit numbers to a 400 series; IE Truck 11 became Truck 411. In this document, we kept the two-digit numbering system for clarification.

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY

The first apparatus designated as a truck company was Bailey's Crossroads, which purchased a 1922 American LaFrance (ALF) 14-6 city service truck in 1949. This service truck carried 105' of ground ladders and hand tools for truck work; however, it did not have an aerial ladder. The vehicle was chain-driven and had a right-hand steering wheel. The truck was originally DCFD Truck 12 and was sold to the East Falls Church VFD before Bailey's Crossroads. This truck would be decommissioned due to its age and inability to meet the fire department's needs.

In 1955, the Annandale VFD purchased a city service ladder truck from the Alexandria FD for two purposes, one as a truck company and the other for foam operations. This service truck was a 1935 Quad that ran as Truck 2 in the City of Alexandria. This vehicle had no aerial ladder and carried 85' of ground ladders, a 1250 GPM pump, and a 250-gallon booster tank. The vehicle carried ten five-gallon containers of protein foam concentrate in an open basket on top. This truck was purchased after a May 15, 1955, gasoline tanker fire on Little River Turnpike. 1961, the Pickett Road Tank Farm purchased and staffed a foam pumper and trailer when 495 The Capital Beltway opened. The Annandale VFD city service truck was decommissioned in late 1963.

In 1972, there were eight truck companies. Staffing was single-pull, depending on the type and location of the incident. It was common for an engine company to staff the engine and the truck with the same personnel. However, it was not unusual for the truck to respond with only a minimum staffing of one driver. It wasn't until the 1972 budget was approved in July 1972 that truck companies were provided with staffing of 2 or 3 depending on whether the apparatus was a tiller.

## **Truck Companies Aerial Apparatus**

### **1950s**

**1958-** Balley's Crossroads, Truck 10 was the first aerial ladder truck, a 1958 Ward LaFrance. It had a midship-mounted 85' aerial ladder, 207 feet of ground ladders, a PTO Pump, and a 150-gallon water tank with a ¾" booster line.

Truck 10 is the longest active truck company in Fairfax County and remains in service today.

### **1960s**

**1963**—Penn Daw, Truck 11 was the first county-owned apparatus. It was a 1963 Maxim F series midship-mounted 85-foot aerial ladder equipped with 207 feet of ground ladders, a PTO pump, and a 150-gallon water tank with a ¾" booster line. Although not in service, this truck is still maintained in the fleet and is used as a parade piece.

Several years later, Penn Daw received a 1967 Seagrave 100' aerial ladder tiller truck. The Maxim was transferred to Fairfax City and became Truck 3.

Truck 11 is the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest active truck company in Fairfax County.

**1964-** Vienna, Truck 2 was a 1964 Seagrave Midship mount 85' aerial ladder equipped with 207 feet of ground ladders, a PTO pump, and a 150-gallon water tank with a ¾" booster line.

Truck Company 2 was decommissioned in 1974

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY

**1966-** Annandale, Truck 8 was placed in service with a 1966 Seagrave tiller truck, a 100' aerial ladder equipped with 212 feet of ground ladders, a PTO pump, a 150-gallon water tank, and a 3/4" booster line.

Truck 8, the 3rd longest active truck company in Fairfax County, remains in service today.

**1968**—Fairfax City, Truck 3 was a 1963 Maxim F series. It had a midship-mounted 85' aerial ladder, equipped with 207 feet of ground ladders, a PTO pump, and a 150-gallon water tank with a 3/4" booster line. This truck was formerly Truck 11.

In 1974, the Maxim was replaced with a Tower Ladder, which had a duplex body, an 85-foot Grove ladder, and 207-foot ground ladders.

Today, the City of Fairfax Fire Department owns a tower ladder, TL 403, which remains in service.

**1969-** Franconia, Truck 5 was a 1969 American La France (AFL) 100' Tiller Truck with 212 feet of ground ladders, a PTO pump, a 150-gallon water tank, and a 3/4" booster line.

The county-owned AFL truck was decommissioned in 1973; the volunteers bought a 75' Mack Aerialscope in 1974, staffed by the volunteers until paid staffing was approved in 1978.

**1969-** Dunn Loring, Truck 13 was placed in service with a 1969 Seagrave Tiller Truck, a 100' aerial ladder equipped with 212 feet of ground ladders, a PTO pump, a 150-gallon water tank, and a 3/4" booster line.

In 1979, when Fire Station 30 opened, Truck Company 13 was decommissioned and transferred to FS 30

**1969**—Jefferson, Truck 18 was placed in service with a 1969 Seagrave 100' aerial ladder tiller truck equipped with 212 feet of ground ladders, a PTO pump, a 150-gallon water tank, and a 3/4" booster line.

Truck Company 18 was decommissioned in 1975.

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY

### 1970s

**1972**—Reston, Truck 25 was placed in service with a 1971 Seagrave 100' aerial ladder tiller truck equipped with 212 feet of ground ladders, a PTO pump, a 150-gallon water tank, and a 3/4" booster line.

Truck 25 is the 4<sup>th</sup> longest active truck company in Fairfax County and remains in service today.

**1973**- McLean, Tower Ladder 1 was placed in service with a 1973 Sutphen 85' tower ladder equipped with 208 feet of ground ladders, a 1000 GPM pump, a 300-gallon water tank, a 1-1/2" attack line, and a 3/4" booster line. This would be the first tower ladder in Fairfax County.

- Note: The Sutphen did not meet the requirements to be a Quint due to the lack of supply lines.

Tower Ladder 1 is the fifth active Truck Company in Fairfax County and remains in service today as Tower Ladder 1.

**1973**- Greater Springfield, Truck 22, a 1969 American La France 100' aerial ladder tiller truck equipped with 212 feet of ground ladders, a PTO pump, a 150-gallon water tank, and a 3/4" booster line. It was initially Truck 5.

Truck 22 remains in service today.

**1973**- Woodlawn, Truck 24 was placed in service with a 1973 Seagrave Tiller Truck, 100' Ladder equipped with 212 feet of ground ladders, a PTO pump, 150-gallon water tank, and 3/4" booster line.

Truck Company 24 remains in service today.

**1977**- Seven Corners, Truck 28 went into service with a 1963 Maxim F series, midship mount 85' aerial ladder equipped with 207 feet of ground ladders, a PTO pump, and a 150-gallon water tank with a 3/4" booster line. This Maxim was originally Truck 11.

Truck 28 was replaced with a Tower Ladder in 1982. Tower Ladder 28 was a 100-foot LTI-built tower ladder equipped with 212 feet of ground ladders.

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY

Tower Ladder 28 was decommissioned in 1988

**1978-** Chantilly, Truck 15, was placed in service when the City of Fairfax became an independent fire department. The county's western end needed ladder truck coverage, and Truck 15 filled this gap.

Truck 15 was a 1964 Seagrave Midship mount 85' aerial ladder equipped with 207 feet of ground ladders, a PTO pump, and a 150-gallon water tank with 3/4" booster line. It was originally Truck 2 and went into reserve status prior to being assigned as Truck 15.

Truck 15 would be decommissioned from 1986 to 1989 over concerns of the small size of the station and the large apparatus. The truck was moved to Fair Oaks and became Truck 21. When Fire Station 15 was rebuilt in 1989, Truck 15 returned and was placed back in service. This truck was decommissioned again in 1995, with the opening of Fire Station 38 and Truck Company 38 being placed in service.

**1978-** Franconia, Tower 5 was placed in service with a 1973 Mack 75' CF/Baker Aerial scope. This midship-mount tower had 207 feet of ground ladders, a PTO 250 GPM pump, and a 100-gallon water tank. From 1973 to 1978, this unit was not funded for staffing. The volunteers manned this vehicle part-time until 1978, when the County provided 24/7 staffing.

A Tower or Tower Ladder remains in service today.

**1979-** Merrifield, Truck 30 was placed in service with a 1969 Seagrave Tiller Truck, 100' Ladder equipped with 212 feet of ground ladders, a PTO pump, 150-gallon water tank, and 3/4" booster line. This was originally Truck 13.

Station 30 has had a Truck or Tower Ladder in service since 1979.

**1979-** Tyson's Corner, Truck 29 was placed in service with a 1979 Seagrave 100' aerial ladder tiller truck equipped with 212 feet of ground ladders.

Truck Company 29 remains in service today.

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY

### 1980s

**1986-** Fair Oaks, Truck 21 was placed in service. Before the delivery of a 1988 E-one rear mount 110-foot aerial ladder in 1989, Truck 21 was in service using several reserve trucks. The 1988 E-One was equipped with 217 feet of ground ladders. The new E-One rear mount was only in service for six months before being decommissioned and re-assigned as Truck 15.

Truck 21 was decommissioned in 1989 when Fire Station 15 was rebuilt, and the aerial moved back to Chantilly.

**1988-** Frying Pan, Truck 36 is placed in service with a 1986 110' E-One rear mount aerial ladder equipped with 217 feet of ground ladders. This was originally Truck 30. In 1995, Truck 36 would receive a 1989 95' E-One Tower Ladder equipped with 217 feet of ground ladders. This was originally Tower Ladder 1.

A Truck or Tower Ladder has remained in service since 1988.

### 1990s

**1991-** Burke, Quint 14 was placed in service with a 1991 Piece Arrow 75' rear mount aerial ladder equipped with 208 feet of ground ladders. Quint 14 had a 1500 GPM pump, a 500-gallon water tank, a combination of 1-3/4 and 2-1/2 attack lines, and a 1000 feet of supply line. This would be the first Quint to go into service in Fairfax County. Quint 14 was damaged in the fire at Fire Station 14 in 1997.

Quint 14 was decommissioned in 2003.

**1995-** West Centreville, Truck 38 was placed in service with a 1988 E-One Hurricane 110' rear mount aerial equipped with 217 feet of ground ladders.

When West Centreville Fire Station 38 opened, Truck 15 was decommissioned and reassigned to Truck 38.

Truck 38 remains in service today.

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY

### **2000s**

**2004-** West Springfield, Truck 27 was placed in service with 2003 105' Pierce rear mount aerial ladder equipped with 215 feet of ground ladders. This truck would become Truck 41 when the Crosspointe Fire Station opened in 2007.

Truck Company 27 was decommissioned in 2007

**2006-** Fairfax Center, Tower Ladder 40 was placed in service with a 2006 Pierce Dash mid-mount tower ladder equipped with 215 feet of ground ladders.

Tower Ladder 40 remains in service today.

**2007-** Crosspointe, Truck 41 was placed in service with a 2003 Pierce Dash 105' rear mount aerial ladder equipped with 215 feet of ground ladders.

Truck 41 remains in service today.

## **The First 8 Truck Companies**

The first seven pieces of fire apparatus that Fairfax County purchased were aerial ladder trucks. Prior to 1963, there was only one Truck Company in the county: Bailey's Crossroads FS 10, a 1958 Ward LaFrance 85' aerial ladder. In just six short years, from 1963 to 1969, the Fairfax County Fire Services went from having one Truck Company covering 415 square miles to having eight Truck Companies.

### **Truck Company History 1958 to 1969**

Truck 10-	1958	85' Ward LaFrance
Truck 11-	1963	85' Maxim
Truck 02-	1964	85' Seagrave
Truck 08-	1966	100' Seagrave Tiller
Truck 03-	1968	85' Maxim (Old Truck 11)
Truck 13-	1969	100' Seagrave Tiller
Truck 18-	1969	100' Seagrave Tiller
Truck 05-	1969	100' American LaFrance Tiller

The 1963 Maxim aerial, the first piece of county-owned fire apparatus, was a workhorse. It was initially Truck 11, Truck 3, and Truck 28 before going into reserve status. It was not the original Truck 15, but from 1983 to 1986, it was the front-line Truck 15, decommissioned after that.

## **Longest Continuous Running Truck Companies**

This includes Truck, Towers, and Tower Ladders

Truck Company 10  
1958

Truck Company 11  
1963

Truck Company 8  
1966

Truck Company 25  
1972

Tower Ladder 1  
1973

## **Unique Truck Companies**

Baileys Crossroad City Service Ladder Truck  
1923 ALF

Annandale City Service Truck Quad  
1935 ALF

Franconia Tower 5  
1973 Mack CF/Baker Aerialscope

Burke Quint 14  
1991 Piece Arrow

## **Current Truck Companies in Fairfax County July 15, 2024**

TL=Tower Ladder

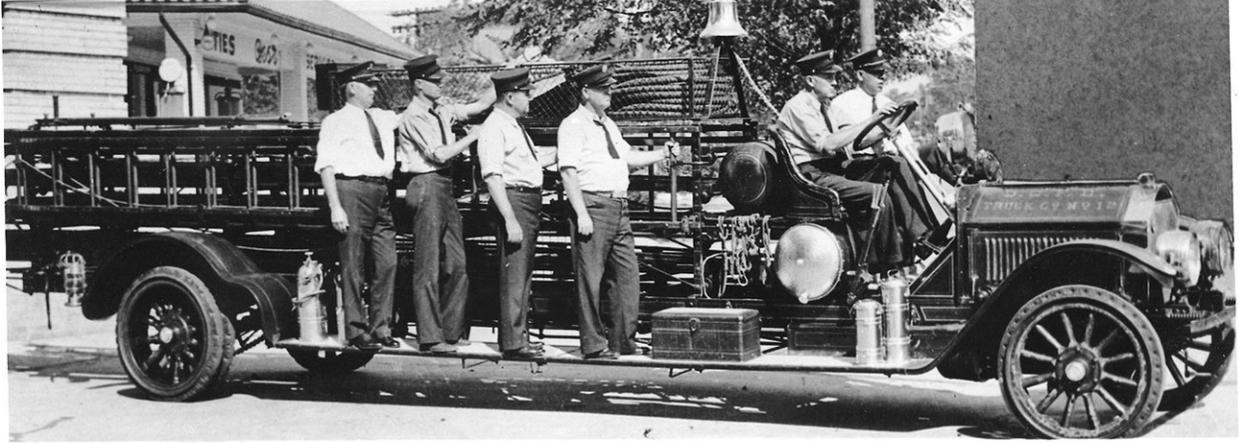
T=Straight Truck

TT=Tiller Truck

TL 401 McLean  
TL 405 Franconia  
TL 408 Annandale  
TT 410 Bailey's Crossroads  
T 411 Penn Daw  
T 422 Greater Springfield  
TL 424 Woodlawn  
TT 425 Reston  
TT 429 Tyson's Corner  
TT 430 Merrifield  
TL 436 Frying Pan  
TL 438 West Centreville  
TL 440 Fairfax Station  
T 441 Crosspointe

City Service Ladder Trucks

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



*1923 AFL Fairfax Truck 10, prior City Service Ladder Truck, Ladder 2 DCFD*



*1923 AFL Fairfax Truck 10, prior City Service Ladder Truck, Ladder 2 DCFD*

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



1935 ALF City Service Ladder Truck City of Alexandria Truck 2, In 1955, this became Annandale Truck Company 8

## Truck Companies Aerial Apparatus



*Baliey's Crossroads, Truck 10, the first aerial ladder truck, a 1958 Ward LaFrance*

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



*1963 Maxim Truck 11, Fairfax County's First Owned Fire Apparatus*



*Vienna, Truck 2, 1964 Seagrave Midship mount 85' aerial ladder*

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



*Annandale, Truck 8, 1966 Seagrave tiller truck, a 100' aerial ladder*



*Fairfax City, Truck 3, 1963 Maxim F series, formerly Truck 11*

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



*Franconia, Truck 5, 1969 American La France (AFL) 100' Tiller Truck*



*Dunn Loring, Truck 13, 1969 Seagrave 100' aerial ladder tiller truck*

FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



*Jefferson, Truck 18, 1969 Seagrave 100' aerial ladder tiller truck*



*Reston, Truck 25, 1971 Seagrave 100' aerial ladder tiller truck*

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



*McLean, Tower Ladder 1, 1973 Sutphen 85' tower ladder*



*Greater Springfield, Truck 22, 1969 American La France 100' aerial ladder, formally Truck 5*

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



*Woodlawn, Truck 24, 1973 Seagrave Tiller Truck, 100' aerial ladder*



*Seven Corners, Truck 28, 1963 Maxim F series, midship mount 85' aerial ladder*

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



*Chantilly, Truck 15, 1964 Seagrave Midship mount 85' aerial ladder, formally Truck 2*



*Franconia, Tower 5, 1973 Mack 75' CF/Baker Aerial scope*

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



*Merrifield, Truck 30, 1969 Seagrave Tiller Truck, 100' aerial ladder, formally Truck 13*



*Tyson's Corner, Truck 29, 1979 Seagrave 100' aerial ladder tiller truck*

FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



*Fair Oaks, Truck 21, 1989 E-One 110' rear mount*



*Frying Pan, Truck 36, 1986 110' E-One rear mount aerial ladder*

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



*Burke, Quint 14, 1991 Piece Arrow 75' rear mount aerial ladder*



*West Centreville, Truck 38, 1988 E-One Hurricane 110' rear mount aerial*

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



*West Springfield, Truck 27, 2003 Pierce 105' rear mount aerial ladder*



*Fairfax Center, Tower Ladder 40, 100' 2006 Pierce mid-mount*

## FXCO FRD TRUCK COMPANY HISTORY



*Crosspointe, Truck 41, 2003 Pierce 105' rear mount aerial ladder, formally Truck 27*